metres; problems of high pressure and mud loss continued and drill string got stuck at 2862 metres. Liquidation of the fish is in progress.

(c) Services of Drilling Consultants from America have been taken and plan of future operations have been prepared by ONGC engineers in consultation with the American experts.

LPG connections

731. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG connections given to consumers during the calendar year 1985;

(b) the number of applicants for new L.P.G. connections on the waiting list in the country as on 31st December, 1985; and

(c) by when they are likely to get the new gas connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) During January—December, 1985, 16.13 lakhs LPG connections were released.

(b) As on 31-12-1985 approximately 37 lakh applications were pending for allotment of LPG connections.

(c) Connections to persons on the waiting list are being released in a phased manner under the annual customer enrolment programme of the oil companies which is presently around 16 lakhs per annum. Release of connections is determined by augmentation in LPG availability as well as of infrastructure like bottling plants, transportation facilities and distributorships net work.

Production of crude oil

732. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how much crude oil was produced by O.N.G.C. during the calendar year 1985;

(b) what is the likely production during the year 1986; and

(c) in view of rapidly growing demand of Petroleum and Petroleum products what steps Government propose to take to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) 27.23 million tonnes.

(b) During 1986-87 the target for crude oil production of ONGC is 27.37 million tonnes.

(c) Some of the steps proposed to increase the production are:—

1. Intensification of exploration which may eventually lead to enhanced production.

2. Intensification of work-over operations.

3. Use of enhanced oil recovery techniques.

4. Induction of advanced technology.

Malpractices by gas dealers in Bhiwani

733. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned *'Gas Upbhoktaon ki Pareshani'* which appeared in the *Nav Bharat Times* of 20th January, 1986;